

Original and amended claims

1. (original) A ball retainer comprising a single rod that is bent back on itself into a first substantial U-shape form to thereby form two substantially parallel legs in a plane, said parallel legs in said plane are again bent into a second U-shaped form which is substantially turned 90° from said first U-shape form, free ends of said legs at an end of said second U-shape form are fastened to a mounting plate, means for fastening said mounting plate to an object

2. (original) The ball retainer of claim 1, wherein said means for fastening are two holes in said mounting plate.

3. (original) The ball retainer of claim 1, wherein said means for fastening is a metal strap having a tensioning buckle thereon.

4. (original) The ball retainer of claim 1, wherein said object is a substantially round pole.

5. (currently amended) The ball retainer of claim 4, wherein said [retainer] mounting plate has enlarged vertical bosses at each vertical edge to thereby form an inner curvature substantially matching an outer surface of said round pole including a belt for fastening said mounting plate to said pole.

6. (original) The ball retainer of claim 4 including a cleated belt for adjustably fastening said ball retainer mounting plate to said pole.

7. (original) The ball retainer of claim 6, wherein said cleated belt is constructed of a flat and flexible belt having spaced apart round cleats thereon.